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Germantown Man Arrested for Animal Cruelty in Case of Dog Left Outside to Die
10-year-old Maltese Dog Found Surrounded by Flies, Wounds Infested with Maggots

Germantown, MD – On June 22nd, 2016, Montgomery County resident Ronald Vaughan was arrested and charged with two counts of misdemeanor animal cruelty for the cruel and inhumane treatment of his family's dog, Cholula.

On June 21st, an Animal Services Officer responded to Vaughan's home located on the 13000 block of Deerwater Drive in Germantown. In the backyard, the officer could see a small dog laying on their side in a crate, which was covered by a towel, and he could hear the dog's cries of distress. Even from a distance the officer could see a number of flies encircling the crate.

When questioned, Vaughan claimed that he had been out of town and a friend was caring for Cholula. The friend notified Vaughan that Cholula had many flies on her; the origin of the wounds was unknown. Vaughn said that he had made plans to bring her to the vet but it was later confirmed that no appointments had been scheduled for Cholula's treatment. In the meantime, she had been placed outside because of the odor she was emitting.

Vaughan surrendered Cholula to the officer who then brought her back to the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC). She was immediately examined by the Chief Veterinarian who, along with the responding officer, were able to see the extent of the maggot infestation of Cholula's wounds and body cavities. It was clear that her pain was severe and the opportunity to treat her had passed long ago, so Cholula was humanely euthanized at the shelter.

Officers immediately sought and obtained a warrant for Vaughan's arrest. MCASAC obtained custody of the other pets in the home – a cat and a 6-month-old puppy. A court date has not been set for Vaughan's trial. If found guilty, Vaughan could be subject to imprisonment for up to 90 days or receive a fine up to \$1,000 or both (per charge).

"This is an unfortunate case that ended with the euthanasia of an animal that, if properly treated, could have lived a much longer, healthier life," said Tom Koenig, Director of the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center. "The public should be aware of both state and [local laws](#) that protect animals, especially with regard to obtaining medical care for those who are injured or are suffering."

Animal Services Officers are on duty seven days a week to investigate citizen complaints and respond to animal emergencies 24 hours a day. Anyone can report abuse, or suspected abuse, to the Animal Services Division at 301.279.8000.

About the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC)

MCASAC provides high-standard sheltering and care to the homeless animals in our community and ensures the safety and welfare of the county's citizens. Through adoptions, education, outreach, and more, MCASAC serves as a critical community resource to promote and advocate for responsible pet care. Looking for more information? Visit our [Website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

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